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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 30 May 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As we rapidly, yet inconceivably, approach the forty-sixth year since Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands in June 1967, we are reminded over and over again about the roots of this tragic conflict and the reasons for its perpetuation: the constant dispossession, displacement, subjugation and denial of the rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, and its relentless attempts to forcibly seize more territory by all illegal means and measures.

Time and time again, driven by avarice for control of the land, Israel has chosen its illegal settlement colonization schemes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, over the goal of peace and security. Time and time again, Israel has deliberately and gravely breached international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, flagrantly violated United Nations resolutions and arrogantly ignored the will and demands of the international community. Thus, this grave injustice against the Palestinian people persists, despite the efforts exerted over the years by the international community for a just and lasting peace settlement in accordance with the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

Regrettably, at a time when serious efforts are being made by the United States of America, the States of the League of Arab States and other concerned States to revive the path of peace and facilitate a return by the parties to direct negotiations, based on the long-standing parameters enshrined in United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map of the Quartet, Israel's actions are undermining those efforts and threaten to sabotage the small opportunity that remains for achieving the two-State solution. We are at a moment of truth and the international community must reiterate unequivocally to Israel, the occupying Power, that it cannot persist with this illegal settlement campaign while claiming to be committed to the pursuit of peace and the two-State solution; the two positions are irreconcilable. And, by "speaking" of peace while actively engaging in its

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destruction, Israel makes a mockery of the international community and all efforts in this regard.

Here it must be clearly stated: regardless of when certain decisions were taken or when certain acts were perpetrated by successive Israeli Governments — whether in December 2012 or May 2013, whether 20 or 40 years ago — settlement activities in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, are illegal and constitute the major obstacle to peace. The Fourth Geneva Convention, in its article 49 (6), is clear about this, as are the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions (article 85 (4)) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (article 8 (2) (b) (viii)). Indeed, the confiscation and colonization of the land of another people and the forced displacement and transfer of people from that land constitute war crimes under international law and cannot be justified or excused under any pretext.

The international community must no longer tolerate this situation. An unequivocal message needs to be sent urgently to Israel, the occupying Power: it must stop its illegal settlement activities, in all their manifestations, and genuinely commit to the path of peace. The alternative is the demise of the two-State solution, with all of the consequences this entails, and the onset of a new era of searching for the achievement of the inalienable human and national rights of the Palestinian people, which they and their leadership will never forgo.

Thus, the Palestinian leadership condemns the recent decision by Israel to proceed with plans for the construction of more than 1,000 new settlement units in illegal settlements in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. We reject the excuse that these plans were announced late last year and that their implementation now is just a technicality. Such excuses are offensive to all those who have believed in the two-State solution for all these years and have continued to strive for its attainment, including the current efforts of United States Secretary of State John Kerry. These actions are illegal and must be halted. With every dunum of land confiscated, every settlement unit constructed, every home demolished and every settler crime perpetrated, the contiguity and viability of the State of Palestine, which seeks to live side by side in peace and security with Israel on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, are being undermined and the prospects for peace are being destroyed.

We call once again on the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold its responsibilities under international law and relevant resolutions and to act forthwith to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease these illegal policies and practices and compel it to comply with its legal obligations and commitments. The international community must not allow this travesty to continue and must hold Israel accountable for its violations and crimes. Otherwise, the opportunity before us to make peace and security a reality between Palestine and Israel and in the region will be lost. The Palestinian people continue to look to the international community to take the necessary tangible steps to uphold the promises and principles they have long espoused but not fulfilled to help the Palestinian people to finally realize their rights and long overdue freedom, justice and peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 465 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 May 2013 (A/ES-10/593-S/2013/289), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the

Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/595–S/2013/328

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 31 May 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to my letter yesterday about the grave impact of Israel's illegal settlement colonization campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, I am compelled to draw the attention of the international community further to a series of illegal actions committed in the recent period by the occupying Power and the extremist settlers it has illegally transferred to the Palestinian land, which are exacerbating already high tensions and instability.

Israeli settlers continue their terror rampages, persisting with attacks on Palestinian civilians, destruction of properties and theft of land and natural resources. Settler provocations in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at al-Haram al-Sharif, also continue to gravely threaten the fragile situation. The lawlessness of settlers and the failure of the Israeli Government to reign them in and hold them accountable for their crimes, combined with its reckless, incessant pursuit of illegal settlement construction, which emboldens settler impunity, cast serious doubts over Israel's professed intentions and commitment to peace based on the two-State solution. Moreover, such actions foment greater instability and undercut the efforts to promote an environment conducive to the pursuit of peace.

Among the many violent, destructive acts committed by extremist Israeli settlers in the recent period have been the following: settlers burned lands in the villages of Urif, Einabous and Asira al-Qibliya, and assaulted Palestinians, injuring three people, and threw burning tyres at homes (18 May); settlers attacked and beat a 16-year-old disabled Palestinian boy in Yatta village, leading to his hospitalization (21 May); settlers slashed the tyres of at least 15 Palestinian-owned cars in the Sheikh Jarrah and Shu'fat neighbourhoods of Occupied East Jerusalem (27 May); settlers again set fire to fields in Zeef village, destroying 5,000 square metres of wheat and barley crops (28 May); settlers poured gasoline on and burned cars and a farm tractor, and vandalized homes with threatening "price tag" graffiti (28 May); in the villages of Far'ata and Jeet, settlers torched wheat fields and olive trees

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(29 May); and settlers erected mobile homes in the fields of al-Khader village, trying to entrench a so-called "outpost" in the area (30 May). Today, settlers continued their attacks on religious sites, vandalizing for the second time the Church of the Dormition, located just outside the walls of the Old City, with hateful graffiti, including slurs against Jesus and vengeful threats. We condemn all of these illegal actions and reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, is ultimately responsible for the actions of its settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that there must be accountability for all of their crimes against the Palestinian people.

Recent weeks have also witnessed Israel's continued demolition of Palestinian homes and properties, causing the forced displacement of more Palestinian civilians. At the same time, the occupying Power has continued to pursue illegal measures aimed at the forced transfer of the Bedouin population in the areas of Occupied East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. As indicated in recent United Nations reports, Israeli demolitions and the displacement of Palestinians in so-called "Area C" have grown steadily since 2009. In 2012, 886 Palestinians endured forced displacement as a result of Israel's demolition of 598 Palestinian homes and other structures. From January to April 2013, 156 Palestinian structures were destroyed by Israel, displacing another 309 Palestinians, while thousands more families remain under threat of displacement. In this regard, we recall that the forced displacement or transfer of civilians by the occupying Power, the destruction of civilian properties and acts of collective punishment are all breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In recent weeks, Israel has committed the following illegal acts of destruction: demolition of two Palestinian homes in Jabal al-Mukkabir in Occupied East Jerusalem, which displaced five families, and two other homes in the al-Tur neighbourhood in the city, which displaced eight persons (21 May); demolition of three homes, two greenhouses and two barns in al-Jiftlik village; demolition of two Palestinian homes in Beit Hanina, displacing 10 persons (29 May); destruction of agricultural fields by bulldozers and fires during a military raid near al-Qarara village, east of Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip (29 May); and destruction of Palestinian farmland in central Gaza, near the Bureij refugee camp, following a military raid on the area (30 May).

Further provoking and inciting, Israel has also continued to carry out violent military raids throughout the country, arresting and detaining dozens more Palestinians. These raids have also caused injury to civilians and damage to property, particularly homes, as excessive force continues to be used by the occupying forces and the raids are typically carried out in the pre-dawn hours. On 27 May, 14 Palestinian men were arrested in raids in the village of Budrus, including Abdelrahman Awad, 19 years of age, whose family suffered the killing of their younger son, Samir Awad, 16 years of age, when he was shot in the head and back by Israeli occupying forces in January of this year. On 28 May, occupying forces detained an 8-year-old boy from Silwan. This is not the first incident in which a child this young has been seized and detained by the occupying Power, as it was preceded by the detention and interrogation of two Palestinian boys, 5 and 6 years of age (16 May), as well as of 12 students at an orphanage school in Occupied East Jerusalem (22 May), based on claims that they were throwing stones. Such deplorable acts, which are terrorizing and traumatizing Palestinian children, constitute gross human rights violations that must be ceased. These acts were followed by the arrests of 12 other Palestinians, the youngest of them 12 and 15 years of age, in Occupied

East Jerusalem (29 May), and by the arrests yesterday of at least 29 Palestinians, including several university students.

Israeli occupying forces also continue to use violence and excessive force against Palestinian civilians and international activists partaking in peaceful protests. In recent weeks several Palestinians were injured by the firing of rubber-coated bullets, tear-gas canisters, stun grenades and water cannons. Among the injured was an 11-year-old boy, Mohammed Issa, shot in the face by the occupying forces that attacked a protest in the town of al-Khader, near Bethlehem.

We reiterate our calls upon the international community to condemn these illegal and provocative Israeli actions, and to act collectively to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide fully by its legal obligations. The Security Council, in particular, must uphold its duty under the Charter of the United Nations to address this situation, which constitutes a constant threat to peace and security in the region and beyond. Contributing to the de-escalation of tensions and the respect of international law should be viewed as imperatives, not interference, as we seek to salvage the slim possibility that remains for the two-State solution for peace and to pave the way forward for a credible political process to achieve it.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 466 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 May 2013 (A/ES-10/594-S/2013/322), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

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17 June 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 14 June 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the ongoing obstruction of efforts to resuscitate the Middle East peace process and the deterioration of the situation due to Israel's relentless pursuit of unlawful and destructive policies against the Palestinian people and throughout the Palestinian land. Of grave impact in this regard is the illegitimate settlement campaign by which Israel, the occupying Power, continues to forcibly establish the facts in relation to the territory of the State of Palestine, including in East Jerusalem, with the deliberate intent of altering the demography and the physical situation on the ground in order to prejudge a final solution to the conflict.

This illegal campaign — involving, inter alia, settlement and wall construction, land confiscations, home demolitions, displacement of more Palestinian civilians and exploitation of natural resources, as well as blatant permissiveness and support for the lawlessness and terror of the Israeli settlers it has illegally transferred — continues unabated, even during this period of intense international engagement in the search for peace. As such, Israel continues to impose physical conditions on, and obstacles to, the resumption of direct peace negotiations.

Indeed, although Israel proclaims readiness to return to negotiations "at any time", there is a clear proviso. This readiness is based primarily on the condition that it can simultaneously carry out its settlement activities all over the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in breach of international law and in total contradiction of the objectives of the negotiations. In the midst of all the distortions and diversions, we must here recall that those objectives are to achieve lasting peace and security on the basis of the two-State solution by bringing a definitive end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and by resolving all final status issues, including a just solution for the Palestine refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III). None of Israel's actions are consistent with these

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long-overdue objectives, nor are they conducive to creating the appropriate environment for their realization.

In this regard, I draw your attention to a recent report by an Israeli organization monitoring settlement activities, Peace Now, which reveals a dramatic rise of more than 350 per cent in Israeli settlement construction in the first three months of 2013, as compared to the same period in 2012. This fact alone is a reflection of Israel's true intentions vis-à-vis the peace process in general and the rights of the Palestinian people in particular, including their right to self-determination and freedom. Rather than acting to end its 46-year military occupation, Israel is blatantly entrenching its control over the land and its domination of the Palestinian people.

Recent reports reveal that the Israeli Government is forging ahead with plans for the construction of hundreds more settlement units in the current period. This includes a decision by the Israeli Supreme Court, on 5 June, to allow for the construction of 700 units in the illegal settlement of "Alei Zahav". On 6 June, it was also revealed that plans have been approved for the construction of a new highway interchange aimed at connecting illegal settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem with the illegal settlement of "Ma'ale Adumim" in the centre of the Territory. This interchange is located in the "E1" area and would facilitate Israel's attempts to colonize that area. Then, on 12 June, reports emerged that plans are proceeding for the building of 538 units in the illegal settlement of "Itamar", an isolated settlement near Nablus, thus enlarging the settlement fivefold, as well as for the construction of 550 units in the illegal settlement of "Bruchin", which began as a so-called "outpost".

Further aggravating the situation are the provocative statements by Israeli officials, including the Deputy Defence Minister, who in recent media comments stated that "there will never be a Palestinian State" and suggested Jordan as an alternative. We condemn and reject all such provocations, including those committed on a daily basis by Israel's extremist settlers, and illegal Israeli actions, which belie Israel's professed commitment to the two-State solution, revealing instead the true nature and intentions of the current Government, and undermine the serious peace efforts of United States Secretary of State John Kerry and regional and international partners.

In contrast, the Palestinian leadership's commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace by which the State of Palestine and Israel can live side by side in peace and security on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders is unquestionable. We thus reiterate our appeal to the international community, including the Security Council, to act with urgency to uphold the law, to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people and to salvage the waning hopes for peace.

The international community must firmly reject Israel's empty, offensive pretexts and be resolute in demanding a halt to all illegal Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This must include an end to the settlement campaign, which is gravely diminishing the viability of the two-State solution and sabotaging the hopes for meaningful peace negotiations to be resumed in order to bring an end to this tragic conflict. To remain permissive of settlement activities, regardless of their manifestation, is to allow for the trampling of international law and the destruction of the two-State solution, with far-reaching consequences for the prospects for Palestinian-Israeli peace as well as for the region and our global community.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 467 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 31 May 2013 (A/ES-10/595-S/2013/328), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.